

# THE WALLACES

Dear Mr. Price:

Having read in your paper of January 30 the articles on the Wallaces I am sending you a copy of a paper that belonged to my grandfather, John Wallace. He at one time lived at Callahan, Va., and drove stage coach on the James River and Kanawha turnpike. I am also sending you an article printed in the Rockbridge News about Big Foot Wallace. I have often heard my father and uncle say we were of the same family as Big Foot Wallace.

Very truly,

W. E. Wallace.

Hillsboro, W. Va.

Ohio May 14th, 1837.

A memorandum of the ages of Samuel Wallace's children:

Margaret Wallace was born February the 4th, 1805.

John Wallace was born February 4th, 1807.

Malinda Wallace was born May 11, 1809.

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ary the 4th, 1805.

John Wallace was born February 4th, 1807.

Malinda Wallace was born May 11, 1809.

Hannah Wallace was born July 23, 1812.

Samuel Wallace was born November the 7th, 1814.

This is a true statement of our ages.

Hannah Wallace died May the 6th, 1833.

Dr. Thornton Whaling, former pastor of the Presbyterian church of Lexington, Va., and immediately afterwards pastor of the First Presbyterian church of Dallas, Texas, for five years, is a great admirer of Big Foot Wallace, the Texas ranger. His birthplace is about a mile south of the courthouse at Lexington. The career of Big Foot Wallace deeply interested him, and he fully informed himself of his history by records within his reach when a Dallas, Texas pastor. He thinks that



the courthouse at Lexington. The career of Big Foot Wallace deeply interested him, and he fully informed himself of his history by records within his reach when a Dallas, Texas pastor. He thinks Virginia should honor him as one of her great sons. Under date of January 19, he therefore writes Dr. Emmett W. McCorkle of Rockbridge, now residing temporarily at Ashland, Ky., a letter on the subject, which the latter has kindly handed the County News for publication. The letter follows:

I spent some years in Texas as pastor of First Presbyterian church, Dallas (1905-1910). I learned many lessons, for which I am devoutly thankful, one of them is to evaluate justly and highly the ideals and standards of the great West and the "Lone Star" state in particular.

The supreme questions asked in reference to any man is "What can he do?" and "Can he do it well?" Preachers, politician, bankers, merchants, engineers, carpenters, soldiers

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The supreme questions asked in reference to any man is "What can he do?" and "Can he do it well?" Preachers, politician, bankers, merchants, engineers, carpenters, soldiers all must meet these searching questions and tests.

Judged from this point of view Rockbridge county in "Old Virginia" furnished to Texas the two men who did more for that mighty and imperial state than any other two in its wonderful and dramatic history. The service rendered by Sam Houston is universally and justly recognized and monuments enshrine his name for all succeeding generations.

But for some reason the unique and invaluable service given to Texas by "Big Foot" Wallace, while appreciated there is not fully known and valued in his native state as it de-



by "Big Foot" Wallace, while appreciated there is not fully known and valued in his native state as it deserves. Wallace was in no sense a raw adventurer or a savage warrior of gigantic strength and brutal fierceness. But in two fields he was a strong, intelligent and successful leader, using of course the methods which the circumstances of his day and the frontier region demanded, as any intelligent man would have done, and as Houston did.

First, he was the leader of the armed forces which in the earlier decades of the nineteenth century delivered Texas from Indian domination, as John Smith and his followers did in Virginia in the seventeenth century. Vast hosts of Indians were driven West and fought for that vast region which now constitutes Oklahoma and the northern section of Texas. Wallace was the man who countered this Indian domination in the only way possible by battle and unceasing war which drove the barbarians into a section afterward known as "Indian Territory." Captain (for that was his title, as in the case of Captain John Smith) Wallace conquered more Indians and secured

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the only way possible by battle and unceasing war which drove the barbarians into a section afterward known as "Indian Territory." Captain (for that was his title, as in the case of Captain John Smith) Wallace conquered more Indians and secured more territory with less bloodshed than any other man ever did in American history. This statement is sufficient vindication for his methods.

His second contribution was as leader of Texas Rangers preventing the incoming of vast hosts of Mexicans who otherwise would have flooded the state and changed its entire character and history. The Rangers protected hundreds of miles of border lines to cross which was the desire of untold thousands of Mexicans, and if there had been no Rangers there never would have been either the Republic or afterwards the state of Texas.

Rockbridge and Lexington and Virginia ought to mark the birthplace and early home of Wallace, as a true and worthy representative of the valliant Scotch-Irish stock, to whom our whole country is so great a debtor.

Cordially,

THORNTON WHALING.

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Cordially,

THORNTON WHALING.

Mrs. Paul Hanifin, of Ronceverte, was the guest of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Camper, a few days last week.

#### FIDUCIARY NOTICES

Notice is hereby given that I have the following fiduciary account before me for settlement:

Wilson R. Kelly, Guardian of Benjamin E. Kelly.

Given under my hand this 18th day of February, 1930.

P. T. Ward  
Commissioner of Accounts

Notice is hereby given that I have the following fiduciary account be-

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man is ready to shoot him to death. It is pretty hard to tell whether all the sheep that are charged to the bear are its victims. The dog may be responsible for some of the damage.

All city students of natural history are friends of the bear. They do not seem to be able to grasp a simple fact that where persons are dependent upon black bear running at large will depopulate a whole community. There is a wonderful lack of comprehension of the rights of the country people under the magna charter and the charter of the forest; it was preserved to us for centuries, and we have lost it all, in the last thirty years. That is forest rights of those who do not own the land. And they have begun a nibbling on the jury system. It is true that we can waive a jury but no one can waive it for us.

The bear has every requirement for big game thrills. Naturally a vegetarian it is not necessary that any life die that it may live. It is a bug and worm destroyer. It eats nettles and all sorts of weeds. It glories in the berry crop that is produced in such lavishness in these mountains. And all kinds of nuts form its natural food. It is as harmless to the woods as a deer. Its courage is great. Its cunning unexcelled. Its flesh the finest sort of food. Its fur stands at the top of the list.

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The county of Pocahontas put a price upon its head but two years ago the county court had to pay out \$1200.00 for the forty bears proved and found it so expensive they repealed the bounty law.

In roaming the mountains nothing is more common place than to see bear sign in certain localities. Their tracks, logs torn to fragments for grubs, nettles eaten to the roots, droppings, and the like. Yet there is nothing harder to see in woods than a bear. Many a mountaineer has roamed the woods during the course of a long life and never laid his eyes on a bear in the woods.

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A large book has recently been issued by Lewis Preston Summers, Annals of Southwestern Virginia. In it he incorporates the history of Wellman Waters, who lived the life of a mountaineer and hunter in the White Top Mountain country in South West Virginia. We will know more about that delightful region so much like ours, when the Seneca Trail is finished, this year. Waters

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was born in 1812, and before he was grown lived in the mountains where he took up land, and he had to his score a great many wolves, bears, panthers, and deer, and small game. He seems to give the name varment the same meaning that I detailed above. He includes the bear as a varment.

The death of every bear is a major tragedy. Very few have been listed in literature, but they are preserved by word of mouth, but the intimate details are lost at the death of the hunter. Waters by writing a short book has preserved many of his encounters, and though he has been dead many years, the classics of the time have been enriched by his work.

On one occasion in early winter, a tracking snow having fallen, Waters found the track of a very large bear and decided to walk it down. He followed it all day and when darkness came on he camped on the trail. During the night a heavy snow fell. As he stood in the snow in the gray of the morning thinking what course to pursue, he saw a raccoon track, and being hungry he followed the track for a short distance, when he saw the hide of a bear sticking up from the snow. Having a mountain rifle with but one shot, he hesitated to shoot thinking that it might be

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the track for a short distance he saw the hide of a bear sticking up from the snow. Having a mountain rifle with but one shot, he hesitated to shoot thinking that it might be the big bear and knowing that if he did not give it a fatal shot it would charge him. But being hungry and some what desperate he fired at the pile, and the big bear that he had been following, sprang up and ran towards him. Waters leaped and caught a lower limb on a tree and the bear ran under his feet and commenced to fight a big boulder. Waters loaded his gun in haste and spoke to the bear which turned its head and was shot and killed.

On another occasion he was on the top of a high mountain. On one side was rim rock over a hundred feet high. The bear was wounded and commenced to carry on something terrible and Waters drew his iron tomahawk and fought the bear for a few minutes. The bear then started to flee and Waters jumped on its back and just as they reached the precipice, he hit it a blow on the head and jumped off, and the bear went over the precipice and was found dead at the bottom.

Waters says too that on one occas-

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jumped off, and the bear went over  
the precipice and was found dead at  
the bottom.

Waters says too that on one occas-  
ion he treed a half grown bear and  
that he needed it alive, so he in-  
structed his dog to hold it in the  
tree until he could get help. He went  
to a house about a mile away and  
found there no men folks, but two  
able women, who said that they  
would come at daylight to help him  
tie the game. He knew the bear  
would leave at dawn. The women  
came and he supplied them with  
thongs and then built a fire on one  
side of the tree. Day was breaking  
and the bear came down the tree  
backward. The tree stood on the  
brow of a high mountain. Waters  
laid low until the bear was reaching  
for the ground with its hind feet.  
Then Waters grabbed both hind feet.  
The bear proved to be stronger than  
he had thought and it pulled hard to  
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he rode it clear to the foot of the  
mountain, where they landed in a  
laurel patch, and Waters got the bear  
down and was holding it.

The women followed on down and  
when they got in speaking distance  
Waters called to them and requested  
them to go on home. He said he had  
on as clothes, one sock, the waistband  
of his pants and his suspenders. The  
women had noticed the clothing as  
they came down the mountain and  
were surprised to hear that he had  
anything on. After they were gone  
he tied the bear with his gallows  
and brought it in.

Waters says that he was a young  
boy when he killed his first deer. He  
was given a kind of a swivel shot gun  
barrel six feet long, which he loaded  
with a handful of powder and twen-  
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a stand on the bank of a river about  
one hundred and fifty steps across.  
He stood with his back to a double  
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tree with a fork in it. Presently, a  
big buck jumped into the river oppo-  
site him and came steadily across  
and when the deer was climbing out  
of the water within a few feet of him  
he fired full in its face. The deer  
went into a flurry and the boy was  
kicked back by the gun and landed  
in the fork of the tree so that he  
could not get out for a considerable  
length of time. He could hear the  
deer charging around but after a  
while he got loose and found that he  
had riddled the beast's head. Seven-  
teen of the twenty-four buckshot had  
taken effect.

He had a good deal to do with  
fighting the wolves of his region. He  
was able to trap them and that made  
him an important man in his county,  
for wolves held back the raising of  
sheep many weary years in these  
mountains. On one occasion, snow  
on the ground, he came to a trap and

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found that a wolf had sprung it and  
left two toes in the trap. The brute  
had made a plain trail, and Waters  
thought it would not go far or fast  
with a crippled foot and he trailed it  
into a cave that was too deep to see  
the end. Just above the time he got  
there two hounds came up and pres-  
ently two men, their owners, appear-  
ed.

After discussing the situation for  
a time, Waters took his rifle and en-  
tered the cave which soon became  
very dark. Presently he observed  
the creature's eyes shining in the  
dark, and killed it with the rifle. He  
hauled the wolf out and the two men  
took it away from him, pleading the  
mountain law that their dogs had  
holed it and that it belonged to them.

The three met in the county court  
to fight over the \$20.00 bounty. Each  
of the two men claimed it, on the  
grounds that each dog had holed it  
up. Waters claimed it on the  
grounds that it had escaped from his  
trap wounded and that he had follow-  
ed it up, located it, and killed it,  
without any assistance. Then he  
took the two toes out of his pocket,  
and the court seeing that they fitted  
the pelt, awarded Waters the twenty  
dollars.

The wild life of these great moun-  
tains was adjusted long before the  
white men came messing around, and  
I sometimes think that his puny  
efforts to increase or diminish the  
game do not amount to much in the  
eternal scheme of time.

### Order of Publication

State of West Virginia:

At Rules held in the Clerk's office  
of the Circuit Court of Pocahontas  
County on Monday, the 3rd day of  
February, 1930.  
J. N. Smith

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## **THE POCAHONTAS TIMES**

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Entered at the Postoffice at Marlin-  
ton, W. Va., as second class matter.

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CALVIN W. PRICE, EDITOR

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1930

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The legislature passes game laws to protect desirable animals fit for food, and these laws are pretty well observed by the educated, but there is a predatory set of creatures which do not believe in prohibition and they kill constantly and practically the laws are

show fight and will deprive

It was reported weeks ago that it is discovered by putting a string and pole is inserted the weasel in the open natural cavity of itself in its appetite. an arm ate and observed

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CALVIN W. PRICE, EDITOR

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1930

The legislature passes game laws to protect desirable animals fit for food, and these laws are pretty well observed by the educated, but there is a predatory set of creatures which do not believe in prohibition and they kill constantly and practically make the laws a dead letter. It has even been reasoned that by taking the guns away from the country boy that the balance of power has been disturbed and that the beasts and birds of prey are the sole beneficiaries of the iron laws. The boy with a gun could always be depended upon to fill a varment's hide full of shot and there by save the lives of harmless and useful animals.

The word varment is not from the word vermin. Vermin means a worm, and is applied to the smaller forms of life. The lexicographers who never lived in the Appalachaian Mountains or ever heard of the word except through such men as Davy Crockett or James Fenimore Cooper, have jumped to the conclusion that owing to the use of the word in England that it is a corruption of vermin from vermes, a worm.

Some years ago I made a research about this word and accumulated some notes and published my conclusions that the word was a corruption of the word vorment, meaning devoured. Our people never called fleas, gnats, caterpillars, and the like varments. They called them vorments.

It was reported in this paper weeks ago that if the den of a weasel is discovered that it can be taken by putting a bit of fresh meat on a string and tying it to a pole. The pole is inserted in the retreat of the weasel, it nails it and is driven in the open and killed. It is a natural cunning and can take itself in every way except for appetite. I think that when an armed man that they are afraid and know that they have been observed and try freezing as a resort. The Indian name for the family is glutton.

The largest member of the family is the wolverene, of the same family. The animal is about as big as a bear and is feared and dreaded by all animals great and small. It will run a grizzly bear away from a flock of deer, and the panther leaves immediately. They seem to be that while they could kill a robber, that they would be injured themselves that it is not worth the fight. It is the weasel tribe knows no weights and odds when in contest.

One of the traits of the animal such a relentless as the wolverene, is the practice of setting game out of traps. A man sets a line of traps over a route and before he has a trip to take up anything has been caught, a wolverene has taken the course and taken it and eaten it on the spot.

With all the animals as well as a number of trappers, it has been a fact that the wolverene has not been such great numbers in



the balance of power has been disturbed and that the beasts and birds of prey are the sole beneficiaries of the iron laws. The boy with a gun could always be depended upon to fill a varment's hide full of shot and there by save the lives of harmless and useful animals.

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Some years ago I made a research about this word and accumulated some notes and published my conclusions that the word was a corruption of the word yourment, meaning devoured. Our people never called fleas, gnats, caterpillars, and the like varments. They called them vermin at the same time that they called a wildcat a varment, and that is within my recollection. The presence of the meat-eaters in the woods was usually revealed by ravages in the sheep field, the hog-pen, or the forest. An inquest was held by the finder of the sign and he sized up the evidence. He would mention finding the mangled body of a deer. His hearers would ask: "What did the yourment look like." And the answer might be: "A panther." After strychnine was introduced into this county nearly a hundred years ago, it became the practise of the best hunters to carry some in a bottle and whenever they found signs of yourment, to poison the carcass and in this way they did a great deal to rid the woods of this kind of outlaw.

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With all the animals as well as a number of trappers, it has been said the wolverene has not taken such great numbers of the country. I have heard a theory now that the wolverene is eating anything with quills in the course of its life that it dies the first time. Some of the more intelligent seem to know how to kill a pine and kill it before it has a thousand arrows. It is up and at the right time a paw and disembody and does not touch. And it is said that the same thing.

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It is hard to catch the sheep killing the dog that kills like Lucifer has more. The sheep

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The legislatures have practically disarmed the American people and it is hard to imagine where the riflemen are to be secured for the next war. They insist on choice youth in their twenties to fight the war brought on by hob-nailed livers, and they ought to let every boy carry a gun without license and it would be no bad idea to present him with a gun.

The word varment was applied to the larger animals. The following were the most prominent of the class: Indians, wolves, bears, panthers, lynx, ~~coyotes~~ foxes, mink and weasels, birds. No one has ever used the word varment to describe the eagle or the other winged meat eaters so far as a purist in mountain language has observed.

Mention should be made however that in England that the use of the word vermin did not always apply to creeping and crawling things. As soon as any animal of any kind got to be a menace to the people it was called vermin. In some of the counties there were regular vermin hunters who destroyed such things as moles, field mice, and other enemies of the farmer.

In that country of great game preserves, the game keeper was a hunter and trapper of game eating animals, excepting the sacred fox.

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It is hard to classify the sheep killing dog, the dog that kills sheep like Lucifer has fallen more. The sheep usually enjoyed the hearts of the hunters, one little woolly sheep has lost all his station, and the man is ready to shoot. It is pretty hard to say the sheep that are killed by bears are its victims, be responsible for its age.

All city students are friends of the bear, seem to be able to say that where person black bear runs and populate a whole country is a wonderful law of the rights of the under the magnanimous charter of the forest to us for centuries it all, in the last is forest rights of own the land. A nibbling on the true that we can one can waive it.

The bear has a big game thrill. In a tarian it is not necessary that it may be a worm destroyer. all sorts of weasels.



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serves, the game keeper was a hun-  
ter and trapper of game eating ani-  
mals, excepting the sacred fox. And  
this warfare was carried on so relent-  
lessly, that at times, the meat eaters  
were eliminated, and the game birds  
and hares and rabbits increased so  
enormously that the livings of the  
people were threatened. It was a  
country of intense farming. The  
lord of the manor might take great  
stretches of the country for game pre-  
serves, while the poor lived off their  
gardens and truck patches. Thus a  
man's garden would be destroyed  
by the scourge of rabbits, and then  
the hares and rabbits in their turn  
became vermin and were to be destroy-  
ed. The nice balance that nature  
had provided had been disturbed.

In the United States the balance  
was destroyed by the importation of  
the English sparrow and for fifty  
years the country was divided on the  
question, the vast majority being  
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man's garden would be destroyed by the scourge of rabbits, and then the hares and rabbits in their turn became vermin and were to be destroyed. The nice balance that nature had provided had been disturbed.

In the United States the balance was destroyed by the importation of the English sparrow and for fifty years the country was divided on the question, the vast majority being against the jolly little bird. But something has happened to the sparrow. He is not in evidence. At least not here anymore. Suspicion attaches to a roughneck that has come here in such great numbers, the starling. The starling brings a good reputation to this country but he has not been received by all the best people, though many of us did not bar the English sparrow. The American starling (meadow lark) has not a stain upon his character.

In making up the list of undesirable members of the meat eaters, the weasel, considering his size, easily led all the rest. This bloodthirsty brute fears nothing. If it meet a man armed with a gun in a path in the woods and knows that it is observed it will hold its ground with the air of an angry lion and intimate to the hunter that if he does not want to be destroyed he had better turn back or go a long way around. This has resulted in many a one being shot the bullet boring a hole through the body that a man could thrust his arm through, as the old hunter remarked about a ground squirrel that he had gunned. The weasel weighs about the same as

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One of the most aggravating things connected with the weasel is its habit of concealing itself in the cliffs or log piles on a mountain side. Then when the hunter comes in at the close of the day and shoots a grey squirrel from the top of a tall tree the weasel grabs it and drags it to its den, and the hunter looks long and in vain for the game. If the weasel is detected in carrying off game, it will

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